## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 03046 121513Z

41

**ACTION EUR-12** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 INR-05 RSC-01 VO-03 /023 W

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R 121200Z DEC 74 FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7376

CONFIDENTIAL PRAGUE 3046

FOR EUR/EE ARMITAGE

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CVIS, XH

SUBJECT: EAST EUROPEAN BUSINESS VISITORS

**REF: STATE 261610** 

1. PROCEDURES PROPOSED IN ARMITAGE-AMBASSADOR LETTER OF OCTOBER 24 AND ENCLOSURE SEEM WORKABLE TO US. TELEGRAPHIC TRANSMISSION OF ADDITIONAL DATA RELATING TO VISA APPLICATION TO EACH BUSINESS VISITOR MAY PROVE A BIT ONEROUS, BUT IF IT WILL ACCOMPLISH PURPOSE OF SPEEDING UP NAME CHECKS AND ELIMINATING OBJECTIONABLE WAITING PERIOD IT WILL BE WORTH EXTRA EXPENSE AND TROUBLE. WE HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL USE WHATEVER LEVERAGE IT HAS TO AVOID INCLUSION IN NEW PROCEDURES OF MINIMUM THREE-DAY DELAY BETWEEN APPLICATION AND ISSUANCE.

2. WE CONTINUE TO HOLD VIEW THAT IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO PRESENT NEW VISA PROCEDURES TO CZECHS IN CURRENT HIGHLY-CHARGED ATMOSPHERE OVER LONG-GRAVEL AMENDMENT IN A WAY WHICH WILL CONVINCE THEM THAT "PROCEDURES DO NOT ALTER IN ANY WAY U.S. POLICY OF ENCOURAGING EAST-WEST COMMERCIAL CONTACTS" AS WE STATED IN PRAGUE 2588, IF LONG-GRAVEL IS DEFEATED, NEW PROCEDURES SHOULD NOT CAUSE TOO GREAT A STIR, AND IF IT BECOMES PART OF NEW TRADE ACT, THEIR IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE OVERSHADOWED CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 03046 121513Z

BY LARGER EVENTS.

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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TAGS: CVIS, XH To: STATE

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